NOES—30.

1	Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	17	Mr .K. Madhavan
2	,, K C. Abraham	18	,, G. Nilakantan
3	,, S. Chattanatha Karayalar	19	,, R. Nilakanta Pillai
4	,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai	20	Rao Sahib S. Paramesvara Aiyar
5	,, Antony George	21	Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
6	,, K. George	22	Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar
7	,, M. K. Janardana Kamath	23	Mr. R. Sambasiva Aiyar
8	,, T. S. Jayantan Nambootiri	24	,, K. Sankaran
9	,, N. John Joseph	25	,, James Simpson
10	,, K. C. Karunakaran	26	,, R. M. Statham
11	,, T. T. Kesavan Sastri	27	,, P. K. Thomas
12	,, K. M. Krishnan	28	,, T. C. Thommen
13	Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	29	,, John Whitely Tolson
14	Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman	30	,, G. B. E. Truscott
15	,, E. K. Kunjuraman		
16	,, K. M. Kuriakose		

NEUTRALS—10.

1	Mr. V. T. Chacko	5	Mr. T. C. Joseph
2	,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)	6	,, K. Mahomed
3	,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)	7	,, K. Padmanabhan
4	,, K. R. Elenkath.	8	,, V. Ramakrishna Panickar
		9	,, S. Thiraviam Nadar
		10	,, N. E. Varughese

The resolution was declared lost.

The resolution of Mr. S. Damodaran Asan that—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government that severe steps must be taken against the delinquents for the irregularities noted in paras 16 to 18 of the Audit Report as the explanation given by the Conservator before the Public Accounts Committee is unsatisfactory".

was then put to the vote of the House and declared lost.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

RE FAILURE OF CROPS.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There are six gentlemen who had given notice of the motion. They are Messrs. Changanachery Parameswaran Pillai, A. S. Damodaran Asan, N. E. Varughese, R. Sambasiva Aiyar, A Thanu Pillai and K. R. Elenkath. Two others have sent in notice of a motion ancillary to that, Messrs. S. J. Nair and M. Sivatanu Pillai. What may be done is Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai may speak first and the other five gentlemen who have given notice of a similar motion will follow and then the two other gentlemen, Messrs. S. J. Nair and M. Sivatanu Pillai may speak. After them the other members may speak. That will be the right thing to do.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Are the resolutions all quite uniform?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: They are substantially the same.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): So the other members will be allowed to speak only after the members who have sent in notices of the motion?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is not a question of any cut and dry rule. I am only giving a suggestion and I hope the House will follow it.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know the time that will be allotted to each member?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: 15 minutes. What I wanted to say was not that all these gentlemen should speak for the full 15 minutes. The Chair is absolutely without any such interest. They have got the right to speak and considering that the time at our disposal is limited and that even those who have not given notice may be given an opportunity to speak, if the usual time is taken up by individual members it may be that those may have no chance of speaking. It is a matter of a little give and take. I expect therefore that the House will rise to its responsibilities and see that a proper discussion is had.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I offer a suggestion, Sir? Probably it will be more conducive to the debate if any member desiring to speak against the motion is allowed to speak at an earlier stage so that those who follow may have the opportunities of listening to both views.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I leave it to the discretion of the House and I shall try to guide the discussion.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Sir, I move that—*the business of the House be adjourned for discussing a matter of urgent public impartance, nomely the situation caused by the destruction of the paddy crops for 1110 by the failure of the last two monsoons.*

It is a matter well known to the House that the last two monsoons, both the south-west and the north-east were failures and on account of the severe draught, the paddy crops have totally failed not only in Kanni but also in Makaram and there is a prospect also of the failure of the Medom crop for the same reason. Now, this is not a matter capable of statistical or mathematical proof. Yesterday, in answer to a question put by Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan the Revenue Commissioner stated that in the western portions of the Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Mavelikara taluks there has not been total failure of crops. But at the same time he admited that there was partial failure of crops in those parts. We may therefore take it that it is admitted by the Government that owing to the reasons stated by me there has been failure of crops, though partial. We might start therefore with this admission. As I said, this is not a matter capable of proof at the present moment. All that we can now do is to give our personal experiences in regard to this matter. Many of the members of this House are landowners themselves and they come also from different villages. They can therefore bear testimony to this from their own personal experience.

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[Mr. Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Speaking for myself, Sir, in last Kanni I had occasion to travel through South Travancore and I found the fields really parched up and the plants withering. I was told that there was so much shortness of water in the Kodayar reservoir that it was not possible to give the ryots sufficient water for irrigating their lands. The result has been failure of crops there. I returned only two days ago after a 12 days tour in middle Travancore especially in the Quilon Division. I travelled almost through every taluk in the Quilon Division. That was the time for harvesting in many of the fields. The plants had not grown to ears of corn. They were merely in the position of grass and they were removed by the cultivators for feeding their animals. In several other places though ears of corn had come up they were so poor that there were hardly any grains in them. So that, speaking from our own experience we can say that there has been practically a failure of crops all over South Travancore and middle Travancore.

So far as north Travancore is concerned, where we have got punja cultivation the paddy plants have been affected by a kind of wormpest. I have been recently there and saw with my own eyes that the plants were destroyed by the worms. I was told that if these worms had come at a later stage there would have been a fair prospect of a better harvest but the worms had come at an earlier stage of the cultivation and the plants themselves were eaten up. Hence there is no further chance of their producing any shoots or producing any corn later. Thus, it is seen that there is no prospect of the Medom crop in the punja fields. I saw superhuman efforts being made to remove the worms from these plants. The ryots have several instruments for it and they have collected several workmen for doing the work and yet they have not been able to succeed. Several ryots came and told me about this. I examined some of them and they told me that they underwent great sacrifice and spent a great deal of money to save their crops from these worms but without success. The result would be a complete failure of the Medom crop in North Travancore also.

Representations have been received by me, I think several other members have received the same, from my constituents asking me to bring this matter to the notice of Government, so that they may get some relief at least by way of remission of tax. I do not say there may not be exceptions. There may be particularly favoured areas where some crops might have been saved. But in the majority of cases, in the larger portion of the area under paddy crop there is absolutely no doubt that the crops have failed in Kanni and Makaram and there is a prospect of failure in Medom also. I would therefore move for the adjournment of the House for the discussion of this question and I would also suggest that at least by way of relief the tax on paddy lands for the year 1110 should be completely remitted. With these few words I move the motion.

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സർ, ഈ സംഗതിയെ പ്പറ്റിതന്നെ ഞാനും ഒരു അടിയന്ത്രപ്രമേയം അയച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മി. ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ള ഇവിടെ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികൾക്കും പുറമെ ചില പ്രത്യേക സംഗതികളാണ് ഈ സഭയുടെ ആലോചനയ്ക്കു വിഷയമാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. നാലഞ്ചു വർഷങ്ങളായിട്ടു ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവു നിമിത്തം വളരെ കഷ്ടതയിലും അവശതയിലും ഇരിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഫ ഫ ഫ ഠ -ാമാണ്ടാരംഭകാലത്തിൽ പ്രകൃതിക്രുടിയും ഈ രാജ്യവാസികൾക്കു പ്രതിക്രൂലമായിട്ടാണ് നിന്നതു്. കന്നികൃഷിയാണ് ഇവിടത്തെ പ്രധാനമായ വിളവെടുപ്പു കൃഷി. ചിങ്ങമാസം ആരംഭം മുതൽ കന്നിമാസത്തിൽ കൊയ്ത്തു തീരേണ്ട അവസരംവരെ തുള്ളി വെള്ളം പോലും കന്നി കൃഷി വിളവെടുക്കേണ്ട സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കിട്ടാത്തതിനാൽ വിത്തിനുള്ള വിളവുപോലും കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ളതു എനിക്കനുഭവബോദ്ധ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാകുന്നു. മകരകൃഷിക്കും ഇതുപോലെ വിത്തുപോലും കിട്ടുന്നതല്ല. മകരകൃഷിയിൽനിന്നും വിത്തുപോലും കിട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് അടുത്ത കന്നികൃഷി നടത്താനും നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതായിത്തീരും. പിന്നീടു തെങ്ങിൽ വെള്ളയ്ക്കാ പിടിക്കുന്ന അവസരവും കന്നിമാസത്തിലാണ്. മലംപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ തെങ്ങിനെ നോക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം ചിങ്ങം കന്നി ഈ മാസങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂമി നനയ്ക്കാതിരുന്നതിനാൽ മലംപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ആകമാനമുള്ള തെങ്ങുകളിൽ വെള്ളയ്ക്കാ പിടിച്ചില്ലെന്നമാത്രമല്ല കുലപോലും വെളിയിൽ വരുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടായില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please do not repeat the arguments.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): മലംപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നെൽകൃഷിയേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ പ്രാമാണ്യം കല്പിക്കുന്നതു കുരുമുളകു ദോഹണത്തിനാണു്. മലംപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഉണക്കിന്റെ ഫലമായിട്ടു കുരുമുളകു ദോഹണവും നശിച്ചുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതുനിമിത്തമുള്ള നഷ്ടം ഒരു ഭീമമായ തുകയാണ്. അടുത്തയാണ്ടിൽ വിളവെടുക്കേണ്ട ഈ ദോഹണത്തിനു വിത്തിനു യാതൊരു മാർഗ്ഗവുമില്ലാതെ കർഷകർ വളരെ വിഷമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. മലംപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുള്ള കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഭക്ഷണം കൂട്ടനാടൻപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ നെൽകൃഷിയേയാണ് ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കൂട്ടനാട്ടിലെ കൃഷിയുടെ നഷ്ടം എത്രമാത്രമുണ്ടെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല; അത്ര ഭീമമാണു് നഷ്ടം. വല്ല കാരണവശാലും ബ്രഹ്മനെല്ലു് കൊച്ചിയിലോ, ആലപ്പുഴയിലോ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു തടസ്സം നേരിട്ടാൽ മാത്രമേ ഈ നഷ്ടത്തിന്റെ ഗൌരവത്തെപ്പറ്റി അറിയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളൂ. കൂട്ടനാടൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ പുഴുവിന്റെ ശല്യം

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[Mr. N. E. Varughese.]

നിമിത്തം ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ കൃഷി ഉപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നു. ഇതു ഞാൻ തന്നെ കണ്ടും യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകളെ നേരിട്ടുകണ്ടു ചോദിച്ചും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സ്ഥിതി നേരിട്ടു ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും വിശ്വാസയോഗ്യമായ അറിവു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് നാഞ്ചിനാട്ടിലെ കൃഷിയും മുക്കാൽഭാഗവും നശിച്ചുപോയി എന്നു കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. നശിക്കാതെ വല്ലതും കിടപ്പുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവിടെ വല്ല ആദായവും കിട്ടുമോ എന്നുള്ളതും സംശയമാണു്. അതിനാൽ കൃഷിക്കാരെ സഹായിക്കാൻ വല്ല അവസരവും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനുമാത്രമാണു്. പ്രജകളും ഗവണ്മെൻറും തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധത്തെ പ്രത്യക്ഷമായി കാണിക്കേണ്ട ഒരവസരവും ഇതാണു്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Has the member any proposal to make?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : Yes. ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കണ്ണുതുറന്നു ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടാവസ്ഥയെ നല്ലവണ്ണം മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ട അവസരവും ഇതാണു്. അതിനാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടസ്ഥിതിയെ പരിഹരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം കരം മുഴുവനായിട്ടു കുറവ്ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കടമയാണു്.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : I entirely associate with all that has been said by the two previous speakers on the subject. I would also like to give the considerable experience that I have gained from my constituency of Kunnatnad about which I have personal knowledge. Due to want of sufficient rains during the months of Karkatakom and Chingom the 'മുതൽ' crops entirely failed. Excepting for small showers during the last days of Kanni and the early part of Thulam, the north-east monsoon also was a complete failure and therefore the Makarom crop has failed. I do not say that the entire crops have failed in every place. But the major portion of the crops have failed so much so that the ryot is not in a position to recoup even the seed he has sown. Loss, both to the landlord and tenant, is heavy. The tenant will not get the fruits of labour and the landlord will not get his pattom. It is all due to Nature's fault and Government cannot be held responsible for that. But we feel that Government are not really alive to the situation. Government are not helping the ryot to the extent they ought to. Remission of tax has already been dwelt upon. I have some suggestions to make in order to give relief to the ryot.

I would suggest one or two small remedial measures which might go a long way in helping the ryots of Kunnatnad and the ryots who

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live near the Reserve Forests. In the Malayattur Reserve Forest we have plenty of eeta reeds out of which eeta mat can be made. It is a thriving industry of the poor persons who live on the river side. It is these persons who are the agriculturists of the place. The eeta-mat industry can be developed as a subsidiary industry so far as the agriculturists are concerned. But then on account of the royalty that has to be paid to the department for taking eeta from the Reserve Forest it is not thriving to the extent it ought to. So my suggestion is, if, for a period of a few months at least, Government could allow poor persons to remove the eeta reeds from the adjoining forests for *bona fide* purposes, free of royalty, that would go a long way to relieve their distress.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is it the member's idea that this eeta concession should be confined to poor persons?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Yes.

MR E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): How does it help the agriculturists?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*). Agricultural business is only for six months in the year. It is only during some months that a ryot is able to cultivate. During other seasons persons who live by the side of the Reserve Forests can carry on the occupation of eeta mat-making. If the Government could help them in that line, the loss sustained by the ryots due to the failure of crops could be made up to a considerable extent.

My second point is, I understand there is plenty of green manure obtainable in the forests. For the next crop, the ryots can be allowed to take head loads of these manure leaves for purposes of their crop. These poor persons, if they themselves take in headloads, should not be called upon to pay royalty provided the headloads are taken for *bona fide* agricultural purposes. These are the two suggestions that I want to offer in this connection.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): The question before the House which has been so ably moved by Mr. Changanachery Parameswaran Pillai is one that demands very serious attention both by the Government and by this House. We are groaning under a grave economic depression since 1105. It is really a sad plight that the agriculturists who hoped to live on the produce of their lands have been falsified. The failure of crops that we had during the last Kanni and the gloomy prospect of the coming harvest aggravates the situation. The very nominal concessions rendered by Government are but very little help to the hard hit agricultural population. The figures supplied to us as regards the sale of land for arrears of revenue from the year 1104 up to the present day show a rapid and steady increase in the number of cases of auction sale of immovable property for arrears of land revenue. The number which was 3,910 in 1104 rose to 17,172 in 1107 and that which in 1105 was 15,982 rose to 30,938 in the first eleven months of 1109. This is so even in spite of

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[Mr. K. R. Elenkath.]

the 12 per cent remission of tax which they have been enjoying. That speaks of the general condition of the ryots. I point out this to show that even after the remission of 12½ per cent by Government the relief that Government have given is not substantial. In South Travancore my friend Mr. Parameswaran Pillai who has toured the country recently has borne testimony to the fact that the next crop is going to be a thorough failure. I have my own experience that way. On going round my constituency there was complete destruction of paddy by the drought even where a bumper crop was expected. In a particular pakuthi called Kappiyara nearly the 40 acres of paddy fields have become dried up entirely. The next season is going to be a much harder and harsder one to the ryots and if nothing is done to remedy their lot it will seriously affect the poor cultivators in particular and the State in general. Again in South Travancore there is water cess which adds to the heavy burdern of taxation. The Kodayar Project which never used to fail even in the hottest season of the year has this time proved to be of no use to the ryot. There are only two feet of water in the reservoir and it is going to be of no use for the next season. One can hardly imagine the hardship of the poor cultivator of the newly converted wet lands. If you go at midnight in those fields you will find them with spades in hand labouring to get the first flow of water from the channel. They risk their lives and sometimes even commit murders to feed their fields. Think of their suffering, Sir, when all their hope is blasted and they find no means even to pay their borrowed capital which they had spent on their fields.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You said you will give some suggestions.

MR K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): One of the suggestions that I would make is the total remission of land tax for 1110. Another is the total remission of water tax which the people of South Travancore and especially those who depend on the Kodayar Project have to pay. It comes to Rs. 7 per acre of converted garden lands and one rupee in the case of old wet lands. Another suggestion is that the actual cultivators for whom manure is taken by carts should be exempted from the payment of toll. By measures such as these at least some relief could be given to the poor ryots.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, the situation in this country is very serious. I do not think by long arguments I will be able to move the Government to give the proper relief. What I have to say is that owing to the want of proper understanding of the difficulties of the people the officials are unable to fully appreciate the condition prevailing in the villages and amongst the rural population. From what my friends have stated it is clear that the people in the country are suffering very much. That could be appreciated only by persons who go to the place and at least see them even if they cannot suffer along with the people. They can at least see the actual condition.

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I have got one or two constructive suggestions to be placed before the House. The remission of the tax has been stated here. In Travancore we find that the agricultural population and especially the paddy cultivators depend entirely upon nature. Of course there is the Kodayar Scheme and we have some irrigation channels in North and Central Travancore. But all these will be useful only if there is rain. Even with all that human ingenuity has discovered we have to depend upon nature and when the nature is so much against us and when the Government cannot protect us from the perversities of nature they should see that we are not injured or pressed. That is the reason why the remission of tax is suggested. I do not think it is an adequate remedy and I do not think it will benefit the whole population. But there is some grace on the part of the Government in not putting further pressure on the population in adversities. What I would suggest is that as the Dewan, the Chief Secretary, the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Law Member and the Financial Secretary to Government could appreciate the difficulty only by seeing things in person. They must divide themselves in groups and visit these taluks. They can have the co-operation of the members of the Legislature. We will accompany them and take them to those places.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): At whose cost this should be done?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): At our cost, and every thing is done at our cost.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is degrading to invite the official members and say that you will meet the cost. Your point is that they ought to know these things.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, that is why I say "at our cost". These officers should divide themselves under different groups, one under the Chief Secretary, another under the Land Revenue Commissioner, another under the Law Member and another under the Dewan. They should take up 3 or 4 taluks and have a programme which is to be carried out immediately. They can also have the help of the non-official members.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is the function of some of the officers to enquire into the matter. For this purpose there is the Division Peishkar and the Land Revenue Commissioner.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The situation is extraordinary. It is just as Nero fiddling when Rome is burning. Of course, Nero can fiddle but not when Rome is burning.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The officers are not fiddling.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, Sir. The analogy is quite appropriate. I know that there is the Division Peishkar. Yesterday I heard a reply from the Land Revenue Commissioner that there was a partial failure of the crops. When Mr. Thanu Pillai asked whether there was substantial loss the Revenue Commissioner was not able to give a reply. We have been hearing of the reports of the Division Peishars and the Tahsildars for so many times and the question

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[Mr. A. S Damodaran Asan.]

of relief to the rural population has become a daily affair of this House. That is why I say that these officers should go to particular places. They can have our co-operation also. They must take us also so that we can point out the actual condition. After ascertaining the conditions proper relief measures should be taken. We cannot fight against nature, but we can make provisions for certain situations. We find that in South Travancore so many dams are in need of repair and many have not been repaired for a long time. In so many places irrigation schemes could not be carried out speedily owing to the cumbrous procedure now followed. I do not want the Government to entrust the work to the Irrigation Department. I know it will take years. By that time our condition will be hopelessly helpless. So what I would suggest is that the Government should entrust a lakh or two of rupees with Taluk Committees to be constituted with the Tahsildar, the Sub-Division Officer, Assembly Member or the Council Member etc., to be spent for repair of irrigation works. This is the proper time for that. If it is immediately carried out, say within 3 or 4 months, Government will be able to distribute at least 12 or 15 lakhs for the improvement of canals, tanks and other things and it may give better yield at least next year. This is not a matter which should be delayed. Any delay is suicidal. The Government should consider this aspect of the matter. After these gentlemen visit the places concerned, Taluk Committees must be formed and they must be given funds the proper expenditure of which should be controlled by responsible officers and non-officials. I am saying this because the paddy crops have absolutely failed. The people are on the point of actual starvation. This will give employment to the people in the villages. Considering these facts, I request the Government to take immediate action on the lines suggested by me, if the Government are not able to find better means of meeting the situation. I think the other functions of these gentlemen must lie over or they must do their usual work in addition to this. With these words I support the motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I have prescribed certain order and so Mr. Thanu Pillai may now speak.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : There is absolutely no exaggeration in my words when I say that the present distress is so accute that it demands the most serious consideration of Government. An almost universal failure of crops at an otherwise normal time is itself a very serious matter. Now, crops have failed and that under what conditions. From the year 1105 we have been suffering from the world wide economic depression and we are amongst the peoples that are hard hit in consequence of the depression. Our people mainly depend for their sustenance either on paddy or cocoanut or on both. These articles have not been fetching anything like an adequate price for the last six years. If the paddy fields had yielded something there

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would have been something for the people to eat and they could have left other things out of consideration. But that food has been denied to them. There is absolutely no exaggeration in saying that this distress is wide spread and of the most accute nature. Mr. Damodaran Asan suggested the desirability of the Government officers visiting the areas where crops have failed. That is evidently because our experience in the past whenever we pleaded for the reduction of tax was that Government seemed to be not quite aware of the real situation in the country. As Mr. Damodaran Asan stated, the Revenue Commissioner told me in reply to a question yesterday that he had received some reports from the Division Peishkars but he could not give a correct idea of the extent of the failure of crops Many of the Revenue Officers are good people. But to me it appears that generally they are lacking in sympathy. Last time there was failure of crops in the Trivandrum taluk. The ryots there applied to the Revenue authorities for remission of tax. But one Revenue Officer told me that the application was not stamped, and that the survey numbers were not correctly given and so the applications could not be acted upon. That is the official mentality. If the applications were not stamped the best thing for the officer to do would have been to call upon the applicants to cure the defect. The Revenue Officers do not think it necessary to do even a small thing as that to help the suffering ryots.

The rules in regard to the remission of tax have been referred to here. The rules provide for the remission of tax only in the case on certain taluks. Mine is one of such taluks. But to many parts of the State the rules do not apply. We are passing through an exceptional period when crops have failed on account of drought and whatever is produced fetch only a nominal value. In case of failure of crops in normal times, there would probably be no necessity for a complete remission in certain taluks. But it is not so now. What I would suggest, therefore, is a remission, a complete remission of tax, on paddy lands for the whole year.

Secondly what I would urge is the postponement of the realisation of tax on garden lands till the next paddy harvest at least.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Should tax be remitted in the case of land belonging to Government officials?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*); Sir, this question was repeatedly put by the member on several occasions before.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The ancient history does not matter. If you have an answer you may give.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): I do not yield to that question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I request the member to give an answer, if he has one to give it.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I have one to give, but I think it could be waste of time and I am not concerned with that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Whether it would be a waste of time is not a matter for the member. A member of the House has put a question and Mr. Thanu Pillai, the member in possession of the House, may give an answer if he has an answer to give. I do not want to compel him.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): I did not hear the question fully.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): My question was whether the tax remission proposed by the member should be exercised upon in the case of Government officials also.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes, I propose remission in the case of all paddy lands where all the crops have failed. I do not want to exempt the Government servant. If he gets a pay, it is for the service rendered by him to Government and not to enable him to pay the tax.

Then, coming to the question of funds for carrying on the administration, cuts in the salaries of Government officers have absolutely no place so far as the Travancore Government are concerned. I would make in all earnestness one suggestion. The Government have converted the "Railway Sinking Fund" into a "Reserve Fund" as the Financial Secretary would call it. That fund is the result of the accumulation of money belonging to the people which they were able to allow to accumulate because of their prosperity in former years. Now is the time of their adversity. Now that Government have thought it fit no longer to continue that sinking fund, they may draw from it and utilise it for the benefit of the people who are in acute distress. I do not see any reason why that should not be done. If the officers' salaries cannot be cut, if Government cannot effect other items of retrenchment, if they cannot forego their luxuries, let them take 20 lakhs or 30 lakhs of rupees from the reserve fund and remit the land tax boldly and generously.

Then also as was mentioned by Mr. Varughese, for the next cultivation the ryots have absolutely nothing in their hands. Government must allot a sufficiently large amount for issuing small agricultural loans—not to be issued two years after the application as is now done but immediately after the application—for agricultural purposes such as the purchase of seed, &c., There will not be even the seed required for the next cultivation and they have to import it to the country from outside. So allot funds, and see that the ryots are helped to carry on the cultivation for the next season.

Then Sir, the Public Works Department ought to be very active. We need not restrict the activities of that department to the improvement of irrigation tanks and irrigation channels alone. By all means,

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attend to them and also extent the activities of this department in other directions. Let the people have ample employment: let them get wages and earn something for their maintenance. The Financial Secretary ought to ponder over the situation and he must see what would be the result if this is not heeded to at present. The result would be frightful. So, spend ample money on public works, issue sufficient number of loans, forego the tax and consider also what else can be and has to be done. Sir, I strongly support the motion.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, as an illustration of the suffering of the people due to drought, I shall point out one instance that took place in my taluk. There are about 8,000 paras of paddy field on the banks of the Vamanapuram river. Due to the scarcity of water, the crops, the best crops that it produced, I mean the paddy cultivation—dried up. And when they were about to be dried up, the people petitioned to the authorities concerned and I myself brought the matter to the notice of the authorities concerned and suggested certain cheap and important remedial measures. To the best of my knowledge, Sir, till to-day not a single responsible officer employed in the Sirkar service of the State has come to the rescue of the poor peasants there. These officers are given fat salaries and also loans to purchase saloon cars, and the place to which I drew their attention and immediate presence is only about 21 miles away from the Trivandrum town and it required only one hour to run up to the place. If only they had come and waited in their cars without getting down, they would have witnessed the sorrowful spectacle which I have described in my letter to the Government and to the authorities concerned. If they had asked the Agricultural Department or the P. W. D. to take two water pumps to the spot and if these pumps were worked for two hours, I dare say the paddy crops on this 8,000 paras of paddy field would have been saved This was not done. Such is the indifference on the part of the responsible officers of Government, I mean the indifference on the part of the P. W. D., Land Revenue Department, Agricultural Department and the Minor Irrigation Department, and as a result of which paddy crops of 8,000 paras of paddy fields were completely destroyed.

Again Sir, as a matter of fact, in various places in my taluk I am an eye-witness and I can convince the House, that due to the indifference on the part of the Minor Irrigation Department in not attending to the minor irrigation work, properly and in time, the paddy crops have been destroyed and the people are left completely helpless.

Then one word with regard to the sufferings of the unemployed educated classes in the State. Fortunately, or unfortunately the posts in the Government service in the State are being reserved as a close preserve for the members of certain families or for relatives of some officers in the State.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you want the unemployed to cultivate the land? Then only this point is relevant.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedu nangad*) : I shall point out the relevancy of my point immediately I am coming to that.

Sir, posts in the Government service have become the exclusive preserves for some people and some families in the State.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. S. J. Nair, please remember that it is irrelevant.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedu nangad*) : So much so there is a sort of discontent and feeling of entire helplessness and despondency amongst the unemployed educated young people in the State. Very recently I find from the newspapers that they have formed themselves into a party known as the "Justice Party" and that they are going to carry on a sort of ruthless agitation in the land in order to destroy or pull down the citadal of.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Unless you are going to suggest that young people should be encouraged to cultivate lands and unless money is given to them for that purpese, your point is not relevant.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedu nangad*) : I will come to that point, Sir. The reasons for the sufferings of the people in the State I would summarise as : (1) sufferings due to drought ; (2) sufferings due to in difference of officers (3) sufferings due to difficulty of getting proper price for agricultural products (4) sufferings due to unemployment of literates in the State. Sir, the results of the above sufferings are (1) the failure of paddy cultivation in the State ; (2) the universal demand on the part of the people of the State for salary cut of the high officers ; (3) the economic depression and the consequent impending famine ; (4) and the political and social unrest in the land. As remedy for these sufferings I would suggest, Sir, (1) the need for the immediate remission of land tax including water cess for the whole year (2) salary cut (3) exemption from arrest and detention in civil jail of decree-debtors ; (4) conducting new works by the Minor Irrigation Department in order to improve the condition of irrigation ; (5) granting of agricultural loans to agriculturists ; and (6) the reduction of interest for all sorts of loans, such as Bank loans, Agricultural Loans and Co-operative Loans etc. Some sort of immediate measure like that of the "Bhavanagar Scheme" ought to be introduced here also. There is no use of appointing any committee to go into the question of economic depression and agricultural indebtedness. Sir, we have had sufficient experience of the workings of committees and the result of their labours. When the Governmental authorities want to avoid the people's request, when they want to drag on or evade an important issue involved in an important question then they send it up to a committee and when questioned they would say that they have appointed a committee to investigate the matter. Let the Government appoint any committee and let the committee's recommendations come and go. We are indifferent about it. We have had bitter experience of the ways and means of appointing committees and the workings of the committees. So, I would request

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the Government to take up the initiative, irrespective of the recommendations of a committee in the matter of a scheme like the one that was adumbrated in Bhavanagar. A few days ago some of the representatives of the people of the State, I mean the representatives of the agriculturists in the State, have waited on deputation to the Dewan and submitted a memorial.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You speak of Travancore and not Bhavanagar.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, very recently in Travancore, and not in Bhavanagar, the representatives of the agricultural interests in the State waited on deputation to the Dewan and submitted a memorial; and various methods are suggested in that memorial in order to aggravate the present sufferings (*laughter*), excuse me, Sir, a slip of the tongue, to alleviate the present sufferings of the people in the State and if the requests contained in the memorial are accepted in toto, as early as possible, it would be a source of great relief to the suffering peasantry in the State.

The next point, I would refer to is, that agricultural colonies for the unemployed educated classes in the state may be founded; and appointments may not be kept as special reserves or privilege for any particular class of people or privileged families in the State. Giving appointments on the talukwar basis, not on communal or family basis, would promote contentment, happiness,... ....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I need hardly say that I associate myself with the remarks offered by the previous speakers excepting of course some offered by the Honourable member for Nedumangad. I am rather afraid that most of the members who spoke before me, have not correctly understood the situation at present of paddy growers in Nanjinad. There are nearly 60,000 acres of paddy lands, both wet and dry lands, converted into wet lands, paying as land tax over 1/5 of the land revenue of the State and about 70% of the irrigation revenue under the Kodayar Project scheme. A reference to the Land Revenue Department Report will make it clear that out of Rs. 20,07,000 obtained under the irrigation head a lakh and Rs. 44,000 is contributed by the Nanjinad commanded area, about Rs. 65,000 by Kalkulam and over Rs 3,000 by Vilavancode taluk. On account of the failure of the season and the rainlessness from the beginning of this year the last Kanni crop was greatly affected and crops in 5,000 acres in the taluks of Tovala and Agastiswaram were consequently damaged, thereby necessitating the Land Revenue Department to report about them to Government for purpose of remission of tax. The disappointment of the monsoon continued and caused naturally considerable damage to the growing seedling for Kumbhom crop.

The plantation of seedlings had to be delayed on account of the failure of monsoon which itself affected the growth of cultivation, the seedlings having grown rather old and over-grown. The draught

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

continued to the Kumbhom crop season as well and the depletion of the Kodayar Reservoir could not afford anywhere near the sufficiency of irrigation. At last the reservior itself failed and the paddy plants were left to themselves in different stages of maturity. In this connection I may recall with grateful appreciation the sympathy so promptly shown by the Government in their recent Press Communique that about 23,000 acres alone could be saved and the rest of about 30,000 could not be supplied with water. Sir, the experience subsequent to the above communique has be-lied its hope; perhaps the calculation of 23,000 acres reserved for protection was built upon a hope that there would be some rain in the meanwhile. Now that the disappointment continues bitter and bitter, even these have been abandoned one after the other and the present sight of the condition of crops is most doplorable. Fields with complete straw colour, half straw, and in some green colour of a few plants which are already dead, are now seen in the place of fields usually at this time seen with blossoms and bunches requiring one or two watering for harvest. Now what do all these mean for the poor ryots? They have sustained damage to the extent of 25 lakhs of rupees in all the 60.000 acres at the rate of Rs. 44 per acre as cultivation expense as found by the Economic Enquiry Committee at page 43 of their report. This great loss does not include any interest charges on investment of capital or of their expenses for cultivation. The late Mr. M. E. Watts once said in the course of his reply to a farewell address that the Nanjinad people gave him the least trouble, not caring who administered the country, but they only looked at the Kodayar reservoir reading and satisfied themselves. Now what is really the condition in the reservoir? It is only about a foot and a half. Does it give them satisfaction and what else does it mean for them? Not only have they sustained heavy damages in the last Kanni crop but they have no Kumbhom crop as well. In other words the old granary of Travancore of historical memory has now become just the reverse. Nanjinad has now become a terrible drag on the State. Writing in 1743 A. D. when Travancore was in the process of making their northern conquest another Gollonassa, the Dutch Governor at Cochin, observed, the country produces as much rice as is required to feed her inhabitants. Nanjinad produces so much of this grain that the king levies toll every year amounting to 3 lakhs gallions on the price in the husk exported to Pandi country.' That is, the toll income was about Rs. 40,000 every year, a gallion being considered equal to 1/7 of a rupee. Now what is the position? Northern conquest is finished. The Northerners in their turn have completely elbowed out the Sotherners. Instead of exporting paddy actual famine condition would have prevailed but for the dumping of Burma paddy into Nanjinad. The Census Report on page 487 says while dealing with the indebtedness of the people as follows :—

"Among the administrative divisions the proportion of mortgages is the highest in the Southern Division. Some members said that the

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economic depression began from the year 1105. Now, what was the position of the Nanjinadians before the year 1105? In the same page 488 in the Census Report the avera e indebtedness per head in Southern Division is Rs. 121 till the end of the year 1104 and Nanjinad, the main portion under the commanded area of the Project as a result of the Project, is in the forefront in marching the country to irrecoverable economic ruin. Classifying the communities with reference to their indebtedness it is seen that Nanjinad Vellala community whose occupation in life is mainly paddy cultivation is found to have executed debt amounting to 8·8 lakhs, claimed debt 4·2 lakhs the Ezhavas executed debt 29·5 lakhs, claimed debt 29·5 lakhs and Nairs executed debt 83·5 lakhs and claimed debt 34·7 lakhs. These also refer to their condition up to 1104. It is note-worthy that the Nanjinad Vellala whose population is only 1/24 of either the Nair or the Ezhava has got an indebtedness amounting to 212 lakhs for the same population. Sir, these conditions are brought about slowly and steadily by the indifference and callousness of the Government in the matter of imposing a system of heavy taxation the average of which is found calculated to be Rs. 26 per acre as seen in the Economic Enquiry Committee Report and in the stupid policy of auctioning away indiscriminately tank-beds which may at this time act as so many reservoirs to irrigate the fields. The remedial measures I propose to suggest are two-fold. One is a complete remission for the whole year of 1110 and the other is to allot an amount equal to the damage sustained by the ryots in the matter of raising the Kumbhom crop. That is, I mean to allot 25 lakhs of rupees for distribution as loans on easy payments and at cheap rate of interest as the Government did in the case of Kuttanad. To understand the correct situation of the paddy lands in Nanjinad at present there were representations by means of resolutions and public meetings inviting the Dewan to go over to the spot and satisfy himself about the condition. I cannot close these observations better than by reminding myself once more of the true suitation in Nanjinad. The people have come to the tithe end of their resoures; their gold has rapidly found its place in the several banks at Nagercoil which have of late appeared just like mushrooms and from these, it found its way to Tinnevelly to be transmitted into bars, then sent to Bombay and from there sallied away to far-off islands never more to return. A complete remission is not too much and a loan on such easy payments is not a language of hyperhole. The people are despondent and their prospect is gloomy. They are practically driven to the wall. Any description of them would not be truer than that of count Mirabeau of France who once said in prophetic words "Beware of the class of people who have got but to fold their hands to become dangerous.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I am rising to say that I am perfectly at one with my friend Mr. Parameswaran Pillai in the matter of the motion now before the House. Representing as I do a major portion of the Kuttanad tract in North Travancore, I

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

cannot but bring to the notice of the House the great hardships to which the people of that particular tract are subject at present. Even before the present troubles arose the cultivators and owners of lands in the Kuttanad regions had already been brought to their knees by the great economic depression prevailing in the State. Year after year the people of Kuttanad have been making persistent representations to invite attention to the extreme difficulty of carrying on cultivation in this part of the State. Some sort of tinsel relief measures have been off and on afforded by Government by way of remission of tax up to a certain percentage and loans hoping that it would meet the requirement of the situation. But that such measures are inadequate to the requirements, goes without the need of elaborate proof. This year the amount of difficulty experienced by the cultivators of the lands in Kuttanad has been so great that even persons who could command necessary resources were obliged to borrow wheresoever borrowing was possible and thus cultivation was raised. But to the great misfortune of the people the paddy fields which used to present an expanse of green glory nodding to the blowing wind, a sight on which the human eye likes to linger, are now blighted by the worm pest invading the nursery of our prosperity and the people's hearts are weighed down as if with lead. To add to this particular trouble of worm pests we have got the additional misfortune of brackish water from the Vembanad lake ready for an onrush to the fields of the Kuttanad region. So they are confronted with two difficult problems. It is no wonder, therefore, that despair is imprinted deep on the face of the cultivator in that particular region. That is the position there. Turning to other parts of the State, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai the other day when he met me, though he was himself in the midst of Municipal administrative troubles opened the talk with a lament on the pitiable plight of paddy cultivation in Nanjinad. That is the position there. Even in Nedumangad my friend Mr. S. J. Nair has told us how the Vamanapuram river has failed to supply water to the cultivators and proved quite treacherous. So, then, so far as paddy cultivation in the State is concerned it is one clean sweep of extensive misfortune. I suppose many of the learned gentlemen on the official benches are fully aware of the situation. I may particularly mention that Mr. George has got his original home in Edathuva in Kuttanad. He certainly can appreciate the conditions prevailing there. The Agricultural Director, I am glad to say, belongs to the Kuttanad region. He is a well-meaning gentleman. But what is he to do in this wild welter of misfortune? Therefore I am bringing to the notice of the Government that they have to take pretty early steps to meet the situation if they are to govern the State as they profess to do in the interests of sound administration. Famine conditions, they have to be prepared to meet. As matters are at present remission of tax is inadequate to the purpose so far as I can see. As I said be prepared for famine conditions. That ought to be the outlook of the Government in a juncture like this.

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No doubt various measures can be suggested and accepted by any sympathetic Government in a situation like this. Public Works may be undertaken as has been suggested by some learned speakers who spoke before me. We have had instances like that. During the time of Dewan Mr. Sankarasubbier a road from Ambalapuzha to Alleppey was constructed when that region was the worst for scarcity, in order to find work for unemployed labour. The road was undertaken though it was not absolutely necessary. It is even now known as "Kshama-road". So much works can be under-taken. Labour may be available on cheap terms, and the Government would thus be enabled to distribute the funds they command in a spirit of charity and utility. Similarly various other means of that description may be attempted. These lines of action can be started if the Government mean to be sympathetic and are prepared to face the situation.

Sir, it is not necessary to lay too much emphasis on a question like this. It is self-evident. And I do not expect anything like serious opposition to what is being urged by this House. With these observations I quite agree to the motion that is placed before the House.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Sir, I wish to add a few words in support of this important motion. The bulk of the State is passing through a very severe drought. On account of the failure of rains many irrigation tanks have dried completely. Crops in various parts of the land are practically destroyed.

Sir, there has been a consistent and persistent clamour in this House as well as elsewhere, that minor irrigation works are not properly attended to and the funds allotted for that purpose are very meagre. There are innumerable instances of the irrigation tanks being registered in the names of private individuals and converted into garden lands and paddy fields. Many irrigation tanks are lying in a state of total abandonment and several others are being unauthorisedly occupied by private individuals. And this policy which has been followed late by Government in neglecting the irrigation tanks has contributed to a large extent to the present state of the failure of crops. If prompt action had been taken by the department concerned in the matter of the preservation of irrigation tanks and canals the present shortage of water supply would have been avoided at least to a small extent.

The economic depression is already very acute and the situation is aggravated by the present failure of crops. We hear that in several places there is shortage of drinking water even. We also hear reports to the effect that epidemics like cholera and small-pox are also breaking out in various parts of the State. From this we could understand that a very serious crisis is impending and unless the Government comes forward ready to do something by way of relief to the distressed, the present miserable conditions will remain.

The other day the Land Revenue Commissioner has been heard to say that he has been receiving reports from Dewan Peishkars that there is only partial destruction of crops in certain taluks. These reports of the Peishkars are based upon the reports they get from the

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[Mr. K. Padmanabhan.]

Tahsildars who in their turn get them from the Proverthicars. A certain land-holder of my constituency told me that the matter of the failure of crops should be brought to the notice of the Government. I asked him why he did not try to send a report to the Revenue Commissioner through the Revenue subordinates. He replied that the agriculturist is helpless. The Proverthicar would not send a report unless he is paid at least Rs. 5 for a plot of paddy field yielding an annual land revenue of half a rupee. In the circumstances I entirely agree with the suggestion made by Mr. Asan. It would be well if responsible officers could tour throughout the State and witness the conditions themselves, and I should like to press on the attention of the official benches the suggestions made in this House with all the sincerity and earnestness. The situation demands immediate remedial measures. We are confronted with a very serious problem. It is no use, as Mr. S. J. Nair suggested, to appoint a committee which would as usual be trying to avoid doing things. What is required is prompt and honest action. Of course, there are various measures of relief. But there is no necessity to repeat the measures already suggested by other members. Any responsible Government which has got the slightest regard for popular feeling, I am sure, would do something to relieve the present distress.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Sir, it is with a feeling of depression that I rise to support this motion, because we know the sad fate which follows the passing of such adjournment motions. I need not remind this House, Sir, that in the last session there was a motion, of equal importance if not of greater importance, as regards the imposition of import duties on certain products by the Ceylon Government. I distinctly remember that our Government assured us that representations would be made to the Government of India to get some relief to the Travancore producers. But no such representations were made and the Government is fully aware of the real situation of the country. If the Government really want to do some relief, if the Government want to see that the people are not to die of starvation, certainly, Sir, this Government can do something to alleviate this misery and the suffering that our people are undergoing. Well, Sir, as one who comes from South Travancore I know that practically the whole part of that country is seriously affected by the present failure of crops. I can say that I have first-hand knowledge of the situation there and I can safely assert that if something is not done immediately to remedy the situation, the task which would confront the Government afterwards would be beyond their resources to cope with. I can safely assert, Sir, that even at present famine conditions are actually prevailing in almost all the taluks of South Travancore. Nanjinad which is the granary of South Travancore and which produces the greater quantity of paddy for the requirements though not for the whole population of the State, at least for a large number of taluks in the State, has been

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practically turned into waste land except for a few acres to be supplied by the reservoir at the Pachipara Dam. The rest of the Nanjinad area especially those which are newly converted as paddy lands and which are supplied by the channels are completely dry and the crops therein have completely failed ; that is the condition of the three taluks of Agasteeswaram, Tovala and Kalkulam and coming to my own taluk of Vilavankod, Sir, that is in a very unfortunate situation, the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara are now suffering acute distress. Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod are in a peculiar situation. Once, Sir, we were promised water from the Kodayar Reservoir. At that time a scheme for the construction of a canal was drawn up but by some engineering feats in the course of construction it was found out that there was not sufficient water for the channel and the work was dropped.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Narayana Pillai, relief measures are more important.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : So, Sir, that is the peculiar conditions so far as these two taluks are concerned , and I can say that almost all the wet lands in these two taluks have been completely dried up. Sir, in many places there is not even drinking water. I would, in this connection, urge on the attention of Government the immediate necessity of appraising His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja of the real situation in the country.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I do not know if you are in order when you make that suggestion. This House is concerned only with the Government.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Sir, I only suggest that the situation as it exists should be communicated to His Highness the Maha Raja as early as possible.

In regard to relief measures, Sir, remission of tax only touches the fringe of the problem. That cannot solve the whole problem throughout the State. That can at best be only a palliative for the time being. The present famine is sure to be followed by serious consequences. For instance, we will have to depend almost entirely on imported food grains ; and the inevitable middleman is sure to exploit the situation at the expense of the poor famine-stricken people in the country. He must be eliminated. Government must take stock of all food-grains available, collect and store them and arrange for proper distribution in the famine-stricken areas. That would be a very useful and necessary measure of relief.

Then agin, Sir, works of public utility, especially minor irrigation works, must be immediately started and executed by Government.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, the number of adjournment motions that have been tabled for discussion, on this subject, and the number and nature of the speeches that have been made on this subject, clearly indicate the grave anxiety

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[Mr. K. George.]

and concern that the non-official members have about the present condition of the ryots in Travancore. I can assure the House that Government share with them fully their anxiety and concern about the pitiable condition of the ryots consequent on the drought, (*Hear, hear.*) which is an infliction of nature on the people of Travancore.

Sir, the south-west monsoon was, we all know, a partial failure—I cannot say it was a complete failure—and, as a consequence, in some parts of the State, particularly in South Travancore, I noticed it personally myself, the crops had to be given up. Still, on the whole I cannot say that the Kanni crop was a total failure. We had fairly good crop in several parts of the State. In South Travancore, where the crops did not prove altogether successful, the ryots took advantage of the situation and, under the Remission Rules, applied to the authorities for remission of tax. But, their applications came after the last date prescribed. Still I actually inspected the localities concerned and instructed the Tahsildars to receive the applications for remission, although they were late, and to submit their recommendations. Their recommendations were duly received, along with the recommendations of the Peishkars and, on my recommendation to Government, Government also were good enough to sanction the receipt of the applications even after the expiry of the last date prescribed. And, all these applications are being investigated.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether court fees or stamp fees were levied on those applications? (*Laughter.*)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Land Revenue Commissioner is making a serious statement: such details as Mr. Nair wants can certainly wait.

MR. K GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): As I was submitting, Sir, the granting of remission in South Travancore is being investigated.

In regard to the Kanni crop, I must say, Sir, that the reports from the various Peishkars are not at all similar. They vary considerably as to how far the scarcity of rain has affected the crops. I myself made enquiries. On the whole, the idea that I gathered was that the Kanni crop could not be regarded as a total failure so far as the northern taluks are concerned. In Quilon, it is true that, in certain taluks, the scarcity of water has affected the crops but, judging from the reports, I cannot say that the situation was very bad. The north-east monsoon also.....

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the concessions regarding the reduction in the tax were extended to the royts of the Agastisvaram taluk?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question too can wait, I think.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry South*) : Before he goes on to the north-east monsoon and to the Kumbham crop, I thought I could ascertain whether the concession, in regard to the reduction of tax was extended to the Agastisvaram taluk.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I am not quite sure about the Agastisvaram taluk, specifically ; but, so far as I can remember, I belive I inspected the Agastisvaram taluk also and included that taluk also for the concession.

Sir, the ryots were naturally hoping that the scarcity of rain in the south-west monsoon would be made up for by this north-east monsoon. But, unfortunately, the hopes of the ryots proved rather illusory. There were a few showers towards the close of Kanni and the beginning of Thulam : and, taking advantage of these showers, the ryots began their agricultural operations. But it was rather late also. Unfortunately, those showers were followed by severe drought so that we have had, by now, a stretch of about eight rainless months. (*Hear, hear.*) The result, naturally, is that the ryots are in a pitiable condition.

Comming to the actual condition of the crops in the various parts of the State, I found, during my recent circuit to North Travancore, that the crops were affected by the drought as well as by the worm pest. I personally saw some of the fields. I cannot say I have visited many fields or many taluks since I could not get convenient opportunities to do so. But, I was regularly getting season reports and I examined them. The season was certainly very unfavourable. Further, after notice was given of the adjournment motion, I telegraphed to the Peishkars as well as to the Tahsildars of some important taluks (important because of the large extent of paddy cultivation there), to wire to me the real situation in the respective localities. I am glad to find that the telegraphic reports I have received are not so alarming as I expected. The situation is not very bad. Still, certainly, the position cannot be regarded as anything but serious. I shall read some of the telegrams I have received. The Quilon Peishkar wires :—

> "Crops poor owing to scarcity of rain except in very low areas. Punja cultivation affected by a kind of moth in many areas."

The Kottayam Peishkar wires :—

> "Kayal crops infected with worms. Others also not quite satisfactory."

The Agastisvaram Tahsildar reports:—

> "Water scarcity severe. Conversion crops fail. Ayacut crops water supply hopeful."

The Tahsildar, Ambalapuzha, wires :—

> "Punja crops, Kuttanad affected by worm. Ryots striving hard to erradicate."

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the Agastisvaram Tahsildar is still there ? I was told he was on leave.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Incom Tax Commissioner*): We are not concerned with the individual. There is always an officer there doing the duties of the Tahsildar. Further, the report which followed the telegram has been signed by the permanent Tahsildar of the place.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There can be only one Tahsildar holding office at one time in a taluk.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): കമ്പി അയച്ച അവർക്ക് കിട്ടിയസമയവും മറുപടിഅയച്ച സമയവും തമ്മിൽ എന്തു വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I had asked them to telegraph express. Otherwise I could not proceed. If I had waited for written reports I would not have had the opportunity to place any facts before this House.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Was any letter received from the Trivandrum Peishkar?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes. I have a letter from the Trivandrum Peishkar. I got it yesterday. He begins:

'I have the honour to inform you that it is seen from the season reports..."

To read the whole letter will take a long time. The Trivandrum Peishkar reports generally that the conditions are rather poor.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I thought you began to read something which began with the season reports.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Has he given any special information?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): He was speaking first of the rain conditions of the season.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): He has seen the season reports published in the Gazette?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish to know whether the Peishkar inspected the places.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If I read the letter it can be seen. Briefly what he says is that the water supply was insufficient, that the rain failed.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether he makes any difference between scarcity and insufficiency of supply of water?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): There is scarcity of water.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know what the Peishkar says about Vilavankod?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): His report does not make any specific reference to particular taluks as he had to send his report in the course of the day itself.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know from the member whether he called for reports for taluks like Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara which are purely rainfed ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : No. This is what the Peishkar says :—

> " I found nearly 25 per cent. of the cultivation of these conversions have all been destroyed and the balance of 75 per cent. could be saved and made to yield about 50 per cent. of the normal yield if rain fell within one week (from that day)."

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know from the member what he has got to say with reference to the press communique which distinctly refers to 50 per cent. of the commanding area having been given up on account of the scarcity of water ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Let me first finish what the Peishkar says. The season report for the week ending 4-6-1110 shows that the rainfall in the southern part of the division was very good being ·35, ·5 and ·9. Kulapuram has not been as badly affected as these conversions. These may still be saved if supplies can be arranged to be made once a week."

He goes on to say that he had a talk with the Executive Engineer who said that the supply would be made only to those areas where the crops had not already withered so that he could sustain those localities where there is any chance of the crop being saved.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is there any definite information before Government that he did supply or he is actually supplying at present ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I cannot say anything about that. Some time ago I referred to the report from the Agastisvaram Tahsildar. In the case of South Travancore, there are, as I said before, remission rules and the time for the application for remission has not expired.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You have exceded the time-limit. A little more time I am prepared to allow you.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The Agastisvaram Tahsildar has reported that until yesterday he has received 1,600 applications, covering an area of about 7,000 acres for remission and that more applications are pouring in.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*) : May I know from the member whether he has received any figures for Neyyattinkara ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : No. The Peishkar has sent me a note to say that the Taluk Tahsildar has received 160 applications.

So far as the Southern Division and Shencotta taluks are concerned, they have got regular remission rules and the royts who have been affected by this drought can take advantage of these remission rules and make the necessary application to the Revenue authorities by whom the application whould be considered after personal inspection.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether the rules provide for remission of tax on lands which have been laid fallow for fear that there will not be sufficient supply of water ?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I cannot give any exact details in regard to that.

Next I shall consider the situation in Central and North Travancore. There are no remission rules there. All that I can say at the present moment is that we have not come to a stage when we can determine what the loss to the cultivators will be. It is true that the situation is serious. At the same time it is not a matter on which an immediate decision can be taken by Government, because in the case of the punja crops in North and Central Travancore they are in the transplanting stage. In the case of the other areas we can decide what exactly will be the loss only when we are nearer the harvesting of the crops.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): May I inform the member that in certain parts of North Travancore the harvesting is over?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Government are certainly prepared to consider the condition in these parts very sympathetically. They would ask their officers to study the situation and make special reports to Government as to the conditions of the harvest and what the result is. Well, it may be that in some places the harvest is a total failure. But there may be cases in which the harvest is not a total failure. In some cases the harvest is said to be somewhat good. In such cases I consider that we need not benefit the ryots as they are well off. So, what the Government would do is to ask their officers to go into this matter carefully and sympathetically. In the meantime those persons who are really hard-hit can themselves make representations so that the local Taluk officers may be in a position to verify field after field.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): With reference to the sympathy of the officers, may I know whether the member is aware that the Trivandrum Division Peishkar issued instructions to his subordinates, quite against the Government order, not to remit any tax?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I heard it said only today. If the member had informed me of this sometime ago, I would have made an enquiry about it.

MR M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Chief Secretary while on camp at Cape was made aware of it in the presence of a Tahsildar who admitted it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): did not hear it. I shall make an enquiry about that.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to take it that when there was no authority to issue such instructions, the Peishkar did it?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All this proceeds on certain hypotheses which have not been verified. Therefore, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai's question need not be answered.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I take on myself the responsibility for the statement that the Trivandrum Division Peishkar issued such instructions to the Division Tahsildar and this was also confessed in the presence of the Chief Secretary while he was camping at Cape.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have already promised to make an enquiry into that.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to take it then that the Chief Secretary did not bring it to the notice of the officer and ask him about it?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the Land Revenue Commissioner promise that he will recommend the dismissal of the officer if what Mr. Sivatanu Pillai says is found to be true?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All these are hypothetical questions and connot be answered, and any promise given by a Government member will not hold unless facts are proved. In regard to Mr. Sivatanu Pillai's question, unless the member says that a petition addressed to Government was given to the Chief Secretary I cannot allow the question because the Chief Secretary is not an Executive Officer.

MR M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I want to know from the member whether the Chief Secretary referred the matter to the Land Revenue Commissioner for enquiry.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Before allowing that question I should be satisfied that the member presented to the Chief Secretary a petition addressed to the Dewan. Mere mention to the Chief Secretary is not sufficient because he is not an Executive Officer.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): My question in this House may be taken as a representation made to Government.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have already promissed that I shall enquire into the matter.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is only one minute more.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I was saying that in the case of this remission it is necessary to inspect the filds.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Seeing that the failure of crops is so universal, is it feasible that the Tahsildar inspects every bit of land?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is practicable.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. S. J. Nair, you wanted to put a question about stamps for remission petitions.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I do not want to ask it.

MR. E. V KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I move that the question be now put.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Changanachery Parameswaran Pillai, do you press your motion?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Yes, I press the motion.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): According to the rules it must automatically terminate as it is now half past five.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: According to my time-piece there is yet a minute more and I shall therefore ask the House to vote on the motion.

The question was put and the motion was declared carried by an overwhelming majority.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I demand a poll.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Considering the very overwhelming number of members who raised their hands in favour of the motion, is a poll necessary?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I do demand a poll.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: After all, I think taking a poll with regard to this matter when there is an overwhelming majority would be unnecessary.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I have a right to demand a poll. I want to record the opinion of the House and the Regulation provides for me to ask for a poll. Therefore I demand a poll under the Regulation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please do not advance that kind of argument. I only said that because there is an overwhelming majority Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai or any other member would not insist on it. The chair is not without a discretion in putting that view before the House.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I want that to be recorded.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Seeing that Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai is very desirous of having a poll, I am prepared to allow it.

A poll was taken with the following result :—

AYES—54.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	23	,,	E. V. Krishna Pillai
2	,,	K. C. Abraham	24	,,	N. K. Krishna Pillai
3	,,	T. K. Alexander	25	,,	Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai
4	,,	V. T. Chacko	26	,,	T. Krishna Pillai
5	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	27	,,	K Kunjukrishna Pillai
6	,,	P. Chidambaram Pillai	28	Mr.	C. V. Kunjuraman.
7	,,	A. S. Damodaran Asan	29	,,	E. K. Kunjuraman
8	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kalkulam II)	30	,,	K. M. Kuriakose
9	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kottra-	31	,,	K. Madhavan
10	,,	K. R. Elenkath [kara)	32	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai
11	,,	Antony George	33	,,	K. Mahomed
12	,,	M. Mahomed Haneef	34	,,	M. N. Nair
13	,,	S. J. Nair	35	,,	P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad.
14	,,	M K .Janardana Kamath	36	,,	K. A. Narayana Pillai
15	,,	T. S. Jayantan Nambootiri	37	,,	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
16	,,	N. John Joseph	38	,,	P. K. Narayana Pillai
17	,,	T. C. Joseph	39	,,	G. Nilakantan
18	,,	K. C. Karunakaran	40	,,	S. Nilakanta Pillai
19	,,	T. T. Kesavan Sastri	41	,,	K. Padmanabhan
20	,,	K. M. Krishnan	42	,,	Edavanatt S. Padamanabha Menon
21	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon	43	,,	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
22	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar			

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44	Rao Sahib S. Paramesvara Aiyar	49	Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai
45	Mr. Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai	50	,, A. Thanu Pillai
46	,, V. Ramakrishna Panickar	51	,, S. Thiraviam Nadar
47	,, R. Sambasiva Aiyar	52	,, N. E. Varughese
48	,, K. Sankaran	53	,, V. K. Velappan Nair
		54	,, T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

NOES.—11.

1	Mr. K. George	6	Rao Bahadur N. Ramanuja Aiyangar
2	Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	7	Mr. R. M. Statham
3	Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai	8	,, T. C. Thommen
4	,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai	9	,, John Whitely Tolson
5	,, Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai	10	,, G. B. E. Truscott
		11	,, James Simpson

NEUTORALS.—NIL.

The motion was declared carried.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Before we disperse now, I have one word to say. I did not refuse the poll in the way that Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai understood it. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai seems to think that whenever a poll is demanded the Chair should immediately allow it. That is not the law; that is not the practice. The Chair has got some little discretion in this matter. We have been sitting a considerably long time. So, unless there was a necessity and there was a difficulty of finding out the trend of opinion, I thought I may exercise this discretion. Anyhow because Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai was emphatic on the assertion of his right and as there was still one more minute remaining I allowed it. I want to make this observation that it is not every time a poll is demanded that the Chair should automatically allow it.

We will now adjourn and meet again at 11 A. M. the next day.

The House adjourned at 5·32 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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